GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2619
ANSWERED ON:14.03.2001
INDO-RUSSIAN CO-OPERATION FOR FIGHTING TERRORISM
SUSHIL KUMAR SAMBHAJIRAO SHINDE;VARKALA RADHAKRISHNAN

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether an agreement of cooperation for fighting international terrorism was signed during the recent visit of Russian President to New Delhi;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps taken in pursuance thereof so far ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI AJIT KUMAR PANJA)

(a) & (b): His Excellency Mr. Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, paid a State Visit to India from October 2-5, 2000. During the visit of President Putin, the discussions covered the entire gamut of Indo-Russian bilateral relations and regional and international issues of mutual concern. A Declaration on Strategic Partnership between India and the Russian Federation was signed during this visit, which inter alia, refers to cooperation between the two countries in the fight against international terrorism, separatism, organised crime and illegal trafficking in narcotics. In the Joint Statement issued at the end of the visit on October 5, 2000, India and the Russian Federation considered the growing menace of international terrorism, extremism, ethnic separatism, trans-border organised crime and drug trafficking as a significant threat to international peace and stability. They condemned terrorism and extremism in all its forms, irrespective of political, philosophical, ideological, religious, ethnic, racial or any other consideration that may be invoked to justify them. Both sides also underlined the importance of joint efforts for establishing solid international legal basis for cooperation in combating international terrorism including through the adoption of the Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism and the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

(c) In line with the decisions taken during the visit of President Putin to India, the first meeting of the Indo-Russian Joint Working Group on Afghanistan was held in New Delhi on November 20-21, 2000. In terms of the Protocol on Cooperation between the National Security Council of India and the Security Council of the Russian Federation, the first meeting of the Joint Coordination Group on International Terrorism was held in Moscow from February 19-21, 2001.